

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015

[HTTP://OFP.SCC.WA.GOV/](http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/)

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### *2015 legislative session update - extra innings!*

While the 64th legislature adjourned the 105 days session a couple days early, legislators have been called back for 30-day special session (also known as Extraordinary sessions) beginning April 29. Extraordinary sessions are called by the Governor to address specific issues, usually the budget. There can be any number of extraordinary sessions within the two-year cycle, and they can last no more than 30 days.

While the 103 day session sent 298 bills to the Governors desk, key pieces were not reconciled prior to adjournment. Legislators from the House and Senate will need to reconcile a budgets and education spending over the next 30-days, or we will see a repeat of years past with additional special sessions. To avoid a shutdown of government services, work will need to be completed by June 30, 2015.

Bills not passed will again be active when the legislature convenes for the 2016 short 60-day legislative session where the bills are referred back to their committee and the process begins again.



#### **Signed into Law**

##### **SHB 1127 - Creating the agricultural labor skills and safety program**

Requires the department of commerce to create and administer the agricultural labor skills and safety grant program to provide training opportunities for the state's agricultural workers.

#### **Passed legislature, awaiting governor signature**

##### **SB 5603 - Changing cottage food operation provisions**

Increases the gross income limit for cottage food operations from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

##### **SSB 5733 - Concerning livestock transaction reporting**

Authorizes the director of agriculture to establish an electronic cattle transaction reporting system as a mechanism for reporting cattle transactions to the department. Allows the system to be used as an alternative to mandatory inspections.

#### **Not Passed**

##### **ESHB 1685 - Establishing a Washington Food Policy Forum**

Establishes the Washington Food Policy Forum (Forum) as a public-private partnership for the purposes of creating a forum in which state food policy, food-related programs, and food-related issues can be examined, improved, and better integrated.

##### **SSB 5347 - Creating demonstration projects for preserving ag land and public infrastructure in flood plains.**

The State Conservation Commission and other natural resource agencies are to identify and assess 3 demonstration projects, located in Whatcom, Snohomish, and Grays Harbor counties, that tests the effectiveness and costs of river management.

##### **SB 5013 - Regarding the use of designated agricultural lands.**

Clarifies provisions regarding the protection of designated agricultural land for future agricultural use.

##### **EHB 1187 - Concerning best practices for water banks**

Establishes the Yakima basin water banking best practices act to establish standards for water banking in the Yakima basin.

**Stay in contact and sign up for the OFP-Newsletter!**

Email frequency is once a month

Sign up on the web at: <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov>

## Drought Watch 2015

Governor Jay Inslee recently declared more areas of Washington in drought. Right now, 24 river basins among 62 in Washington are expected to experience hardships from drought. This includes 16 watersheds in Western Washington and eight in Eastern Washington where water supplies will be short. This equates to roughly 44 percent of the state.

Snowpack statewide has declined to 19 percent of normal, worse than when the last statewide drought was declared in 2005. Snowpack is like a frozen reservoir for river basins, in a typical year accumulating over the winter and slowly melting through the spring and summer providing a water supply for rivers and stream. This year run-off from snowmelt for the period April through September is projected to be the lowest on record in the past 64 years.

The 13 river basins declared April 17 to be in drought, like the three regions declared in March, qualified for the declarations because they met this criteria under state law:

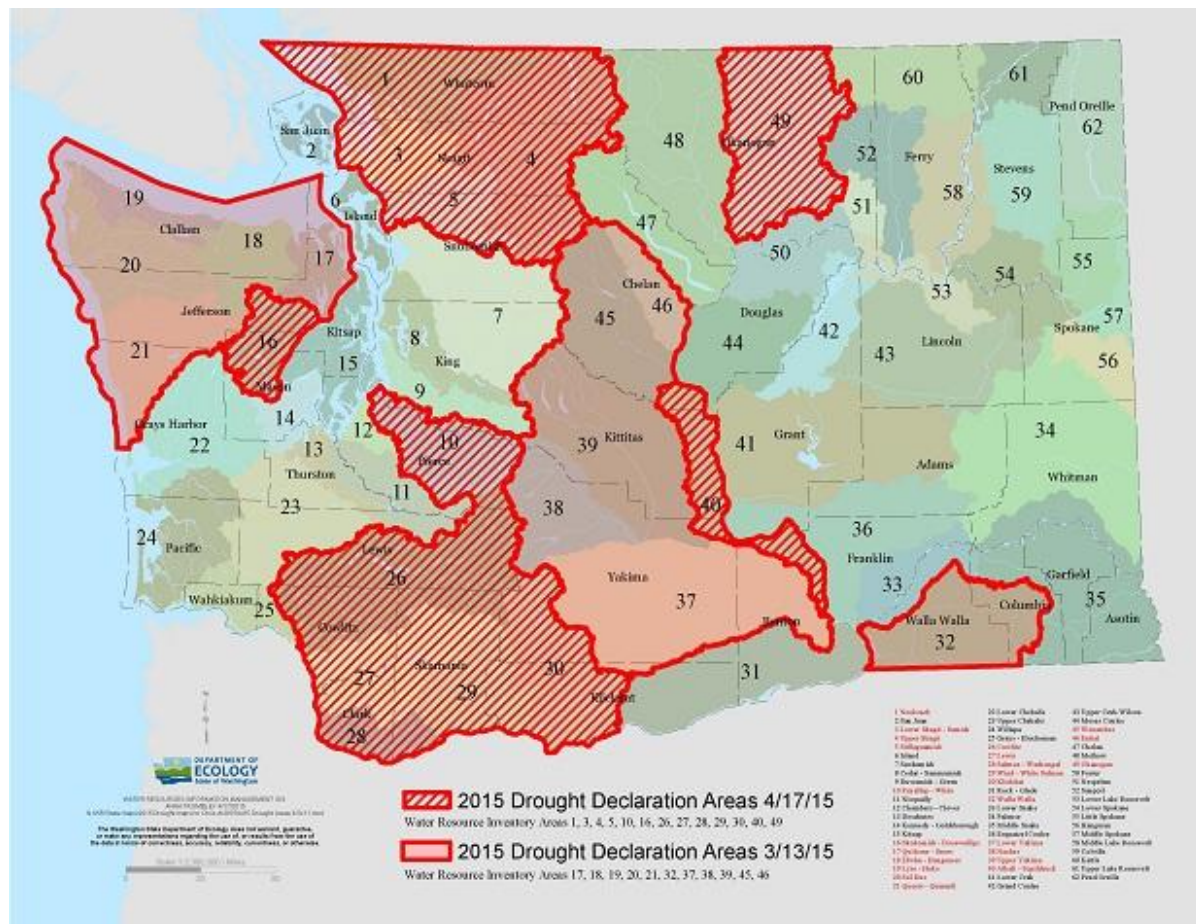
- Water supply in the basins is at 75 percent of normal levels or below
- Hardships for people, farms and fish are expected because of water shortages resulting from significantly below normal run-off from snowmelt.

The Bureau of Reclamation recently released a mid-April 2015 Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) forecast for the Yakima Basin because of the decline in reservoir storage and low stream flows. The TWSA indicates a full water supply for senior water rights during the 2015 irrigation season, but an estimated 54 percent supply for junior water rights. Reclamation will issue water supply forecasts monthly or as needed at least through July. [View BOR news release](#)

Conservation Districts are participating in drought response efforts. If you need technical assistance, please contact your local conservation district office.

Please contact Jon Culp for further drought information or with drought questions: 509-385-7509, [jculp@scc.wa.gov](mailto:jculp@scc.wa.gov)

For more information on this summer's drought, go to: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/>



## *Washington state farmland protection funding update*

The 64th Washington State Legislature has all three capital budget proposals to consider as they reconcile budget differences. The following is information for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) which is funded in all three budget proposals. Funding for protection of Washington agricultural land is included in all three budgets. A final capital budget agreement is not yet in place as of May 1, 2015.

Information on 2015 budget proposals can be found by going to: <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/default.asp>

Washington State House	Governor Jay Inslee	Washington State Senate
<u>Capital Budget Proposal</u> : Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	<u>Capital Budget Proposal</u> : Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	<u>Capital Budget Proposal</u> : Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
<b>\$75 million for WWRP =</b>	<b>\$70 million for WWRP =</b>	<b>\$53.4 million for WWRP* =</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$28m - <b>Habitat Conservation</b></li> <li>• \$28m - <b>Outdoor Recreation</b></li> <li>• \$12.5m - <b>Riparian Protection</b></li> <li>• \$6.5m - <b>Farmland Preservation.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$27m - <b>Habitat Conservation</b></li> <li>• \$27m - <b>Outdoor Recreation</b></li> <li>• \$10m - <b>Riparian Protection</b></li> <li>• \$6m - <b>Farmland Preservation.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$45.6m - <b>Outdoor Recreation</b></li> <li>• \$4.9m - <b>Riparian Protection</b></li> <li>• \$2.8m - <b>Farmland Preservation</b></li> </ul> <p><i>*Does not fund Habitat Conservation Account</i></p>

## *Economic Impact of Public Natural Resource Lands*

### **JLARC Preliminary Report: Economic Impact of Public Natural Resource Lands**

The Joint Legislative and Review Committee (JLARC) recently provided an update on their report on the Economic Impact of Public Natural Resource Lands.

Review the report and a staff presentation by going to: <http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/Pages/default.aspx>. Information is available under the April 29, 2015 meeting section.

At the direction of the Legislature, JLARC staff worked with a team of economists from Washington State University to evaluate whether a higher percentage of state and federal natural resource lands is detrimental to measures of economic vitality in a county.

A team of economists from Washington State University (WSU) used regression analysis and case studies to gain insights into what might affect measures of county economic vitality. Their work indicates:

- There is wide variation across the counties in the amount of natural resource land owned by state and federal agencies.
- While the overall percentage of public natural resource lands within counties does not appear to negatively affect local economies, specific sites may have positive or negative net impacts on local jobs and business output.
- Impacts are driven in large part by how the land is used. Estimating these impacts will be highly dependent on the data available, the assumptions made, and whether or not land use at a specific site has changed enough to cause a measurable change in the economy. Individual acquisitions may not result in enough land use change to estimate impacts.
- Economic impact analyses can inform decisions about public lands but may not capture broader impacts. A county-level analysis may not identify the impacts to other counties or the state. Also, these analyses may not account for non-economic goals such as habitat preservation.

Read more: <http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2015/PublicLandsEcon/p/default.htm>



## ***USDA Announces effort to address climate change***

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently laid out a comprehensive approach to partner with agricultural producers to address the threat of climate change. Building on the creation of USDA's Climate Hubs last year, the new initiatives will utilize voluntary, incentive-based conservation, forestry, and energy programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration and expand renewable energy production in the agricultural and forestry sectors. Through these efforts, USDA expects to reduce net emissions and enhance carbon sequestration by over 120 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (MMT<sub>CO2e</sub>) per year – about 2 percent of economy-wide net greenhouse emissions – by 2025. That's the equivalent of taking 25 million cars off the road, or the emissions produced by powering nearly 11 million homes last year.



Read more about the partnerships with farmers and rancher here: <http://goo.gl/TTbtDU>

## ***Pierce County farmers markets seeking farmer vendors***

### **Orting Valley Farmers Market**

Growers of produce and tree fruit are sought for the Orting Valley Farmers Market 2015 Season. Fridays, 3-7 pm.



Great location, great incentives for farmers, 30+ vendors average per day, high traffic location. Starts June 19 through Aug 28, plus monthly markets in Sept and Oct (including Pumpkin Festival, October 10). Please contact Patty at (360) 893-4359 or visit [ortingvalleyfarmersmarket.com](http://ortingvalleyfarmersmarket.com)

### **Tacoma Farmers Markets**

Tacoma Farmers Markets recently began accepting applications from interested vendors. The Tacoma Farmers Market is an open-air, European style marketplace showcasing locally produced foodstuffs and artisan items with local performers setting the live entertainment ambiance.



Learn how to become a vendor by going to: <http://tacomafarmersmarket.com/how-to-become-a-vendor/>

## ***King Conservation District: Regional Food System Program***

The King Conservation District has initiated a new Regional Food System Program to help grow the local food economy through a combination of action initiatives, grants, and collaboration with partner organizations. Long-term goals are to contribute to the economic viability of local farms, encourage more new farmers, expand acreage in food production, improve food access, and increase the demand for local farm products.

See the website to learn more about the [KCD Regional Food System Program](http://kingconservationdistrict.org/food-system-program)

## ***Study puts a price on help nature provides agriculture***

PULLMAN, Wash. – Scientists from Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States describe the research they conducted on organic and conventional farms to arrive at dollar values for natural processes that aid farming and that can substitute for costly fossil fuel-based inputs. The study appears in the journal *PeerJ*.

“By accounting for ecosystem services in agricultural systems and getting people to support the products from these systems around the world, we move stewardship of lands in a more sustainable direction, protecting future generations,” said Washington State University soil scientist John Reganold, one of the study's authors. **Read more** [here](http://www.wsu.edu/news/2015/06/24/agriculture)

## ***WA NASS Crop Progress and Condition - Week ending April 26***

### **Spring Weather Conditions in Washington - [Information here](#)**

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.4. Pasture and range conditions were reported to be 10% very poor, 6% poor, 37% fair, 40% good, and 7% excellent. In western Washington, some moisture was received and still allowed for some field work activity. Pasture growth reported to be in good conditions. Apples are in full bloom with fields being prepped and seeded. Skagit County reported heavy rains throughout the week which minimized field activity. Dry and windy conditions continued throughout central Washington. The lack of precipitation continued to be of concern, impacts were shown in decreased water levels in reservoirs along with ponds and lakes that are utilized by producers. In Yakima County, asparagus harvest continued and was being sold at roadside stands. Filed crews laid down black plastic and planted transplants of cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes. Some fruit tree thinning began in the lower Yakima Valley. In southeastern Washington, winter wheat spraying continued when weather conditions allowed. Livestock continued to do well.

## ***Farm Transition/Succession Planning Resources***

From [WA Farm Link Weekly Digest - Cascade Harvest Coalition](#)

Whether you are a landowner, a retiring farmer or a farmer just starting or mid-career with your business (someday you too will be in the position of needing to pass on your farm/property), here are a few resources that might be useful for thinking through Farm Transition Planning. (We'll remind you active farmers of all this in the winter when you have more time!):



**CASCADE  
HARVEST  
COALITION**  
CASCADHARVEST.ORG

The [Planning the Future of Your Farm Workbook](#) is available on the WA FarmLink website! This workbook was recently developed by the WA State Office of Farmland Preservation and includes worksheets to walk you and your family through the process of planning for a future farm transfer.

The [Successful Farm Transfer Planning for Farmers Without an Identified Successor](#), developed by Land for Good, may be just the guide many of our FarmLink landowners (and future landowners) could use – after all – if you are a landowner getting this email, likely you don't have an identified successor for your property or farm.

The article, [How to Create a Smooth Farm Transition from One Generation to the Next](#), is an interesting, somewhat complex and sophisticated example of generational transfer, most likely on a bigger scale than most of you are dealing with – but it still is a relevant and interesting read.

## ***Washington receives federal funding to increase fresh food consumption***

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that USDA awarded \$31.5 million in funding to local, state, and national organizations to support programs that help participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) increase their purchase of fruits and vegetables.

The **Washington State Department of Health** received one of the larger awards nationally (\$5,859,307). This grant will offer a variety of cash incentives in 21 counties to SNAP shoppers at supermarkets and farmers markets to increase their purchases of a variety of fruits and vegetables; a social marketing and promotional campaign will raise awareness about the incentive programs. The program involves 168 Safeway stores, 86 Farmers Markets and CSAs and includes a fruit and vegetable prescription program, known as Veggie RX, at participating stores.

Another Washington award with the the Opportunity Council located in Bellingham.

**Opportunity Council**, Bellingham, WA

\$301,658 | The Whatcom Food Access Incentive program will increase fruit and vegetable purchases among low-income consumers participating in SNAP by providing incentives at the point of purchase, improving the nutrition and health status of participating households. The project will reach over 2,100 SNAP households annually.

## In Short

### Grant: USDA Local Food Promotion

The Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP) offers grants to support the development and expansion of local and regional food business enterprises.

Two types of project applications are accepted under LFPP: planning grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 and implementation grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000.

**Applications are due May 14, 2015.**  
See calendar on last page for work-shop details.

Details here: <http://goo.gl/9T0sHD>

### Aetna Foundation GoLocal: Cultivating Healthy Communities Grant Program

The Aetna Foundation's Local Roots grant program seeks to fund the creation and expansion of community gardens, urban farms, and farmers markets in underserved, low-income, and minority communities. Non-profits may apply for grants of up to \$25,000 per year for up to two years.

**Applications must be received by May 6, 2015.** Details here (PDF):

<http://goo.gl/RhN5Dq>

### New Residential Construction

Residential construction remains up over last year at this time in the West according to March 2015 New Residential Construction report. Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in March were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 267,000. Single-family authorizations in March were at a rate of 146,000; this down 2 percent ( $\pm 2.8\%$ ) above the revised February figure of 149,000 and up 13.2% March of 2014.

More here: <http://goo.gl/Gx1uU4>

## Scientists Find Prickly Lettuce Has Potential for Rubber Production

Prickly lettuce, a common weed that has long vexed farmers, has potential as a new cash crop providing raw material for rubber production, according to **Washington State University** scientists.

Writing in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, they describe regions in the plant's genetic code linked to rubber production. The findings open the way for breeding for desired traits and developing a new crop source for rubber in the Pacific Northwest.

When the lettuce we eat and grow in our gardens bolts, a milky white sap bleeds from the stem. In prickly lettuce, the wild relative and ancestor of cultivated lettuce, this same substance could prove to be an economically viable source of natural rubber and help alleviate a worldwide threat to rubber production.

Natural rubber is the main ingredient for many everyday products, from boots to condoms to surgical gloves. Roughly 70 percent of the global supply of rubber is used in tires.

Read the entire story/study by going to: <http://goo.gl/8rYs0M>



(Photo by Flickr user [Jim Kennedy](#))

## USDA Approves Record-Breaking Purchase of Apples

US Apple Association recently issued the following news release:

Vienna, Va. - April 29, 2015 – The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) recently announced that the US Apple Association's (USApple) request for a bonus buy of fresh apples and processed products has been approved.

This purchase includes 34.9 million pounds of fresh apples and 16.1 million pounds of processed apple products, and is the largest USDA apple purchase in history. The estimated dollar value of the purchase is \$18.3 million. The apples and apple products will be used to supplement USDA's supply for nutrition programs, such as the school lunch program.

"Coming on the heels of what was likely the largest apple crop in US history, this USDA purchase is welcome news and we thank the department for it," said US Apple Association president & CEO Jim Bair. "Adding this action to USDA's recent success in opening the China market for US apples, it is an understatement to say we are grateful."

"I'd also like to call out USApple's director of regulatory and industry affairs Mark Seetin for special thanks. His initiative and hard work on this bonus buy are appreciated."

USDA estimates that the Purchase Announcement soliciting offers to sell will be published within a month.

## In Short

### Upcoming Immigration Informational Meetings

[Roach Law Firms](#) has scheduled several meetings for workers and family members in the Hispanic community to discuss immigration issues.

#### [SCHEDULED MEETINGS \(PDF\)](#)

Right now, workers may be eligible for a program that could provide work authorization. And if the recent Executive Actions called DAPA and DACA 2.0 are upheld in the courts, over 100,000 undocumented immigrants in Washington state could be eligible for work authorization.

### Job Opening: Viva Farms Development & Communications Manager

The Development and Communications manager is a senior staff position ensuring achievement of the fundraising and communication goals of Viva Farms through planning and execution.

Located in the Skagit Valley, the Viva Farms business incubator helps new farmers learn how to farm and experienced farm workers establish their own business while minimizing prohibitive start-up costs.

Full job description at: <http://goo.gl/ChRDRa>

### Western SARE: Calls for Proposals Released

Calls for Proposals for all five of Western SARE grant programs have been released. Deadlines vary with each program.

The five programs are:

- Research and Education
- Farmer/Rancher
- Ag Professional + Producer
- Professional Development
- Graduate Student

[Read More...](#)

## Latino Farmers Embrace Farm Sustainability Series

**Yakima, WA-** The Center for Latino Farmers (Center) in partnership with WA State Conservation Commission (WSCC) and WA State Dept of Agriculture (WSDA) sponsored a 20-hour educational series on "Farm Sustainability & Farm Succession Planning" for Hispanic/Latino beginning farmer & ranchers in Yakima.

The sessions were conducted in the evenings on April 20, 21, 22, & 23 in the evenings to accommodate the producers. Twenty four (24) participated in the class, 18 received a Certificate of Completion. Specialists discussed topics on water rights, irrigation districts, renewable energy, energy efficiency, specialty crops and long term farm succession planning.

During the estate planning session, a survey was taken to evaluate and determine the percentage of farmers and ranchers who had their final paper in order in case of emergency, such as last will and testament, health care directive, power of attorney to determine who would retain their farm if they should die. Out of the 24 producers in attendance, 98% did not have any legal documents filed in regard to their assets if they were to pass. (According to LexisNexis, 74% of Hispanic adults in the USA do not have a last will and testament.)

This series was definitely an eye opener and wakeup call for the farmers and rancher to understand the importance of having their financial priorities in order. Per the pre/post quiz, the results showed that they increased their knowledge by 45%. All present were very satisfied with the series, and the overall series evaluation was rated higher at 94.7% positive.

The workshop is made available through a grant from the USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program (BFRDP). The Center supports all efforts in better preparing Latino farmers & ranchers in knowledge and understanding about long term sustainability of their lands & natural resources. The Center is recognized on a national basis for their outstanding work in educating and providing services to Latino farmers and ranchers who have limited English speaking and educational skills.





## In Short

### USDA Rural Development Grant

USDA Rural Development recently announced the availability of its new Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG). Individual businesses are not eligible to apply, but nonprofits, cooperatives, state agencies, public bodies, and Native American tribes are eligible.

RBDG funds can be used to acquire or develop land, buildings, plants and equipment; build or improve access roads, parking areas, utility extensions and water and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance, establish revolving loan funds and to support rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job training.

**The deadline to apply is June 5, 2015.**

**Program details available by going to: <http://goo.gl/Ujdy93>**

### FDA May Exempt Farm-to-Consumer Sales from FSMA Preventive Controls

**(Food Safety News - Story [Link](#))**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a proposed rule to amend and improve its regulations on food facility registration.

Facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for consumption in the U.S. must register with FDA, but "retail food establishments," farms, restaurants and certain other entities are exempt from the requirement.

Read the rest of the story here: [Food Safety News](#)

Read the proposed rule here: [Amendments to Registration of Food Facilities](#)

### WA Ecology News Release: Food processor settles wastewater penalty

A Sunnyside food processing company has resolved wastewater discharge violations and will participate in an environmental enhancement project to settle a penalty with the Washington Department of Ecology.

In February 2014, Johnson Foods, Inc. was fined \$14,000 for a history of wastewater discharge violations. The company processes fruits and vegetables and sends its wastewater for treatment at the Port of Sunnyside.

Johnson Foods recently installed a system to neutralize pH in wastewater, as required by permit and cited as a problem in the penalty notice.

[Read more....](#)

## Record Number of Organic Producers in U.S - Sales grow

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced that the organic industry continues to show remarkable growth domestically and globally, with 19,474 certified organic operations in the United States and a total of 27,814 certified organic operations around the world. Washington state had 1,135 certified organic operations in 2014. Over the past three years, Washington has averaged just over 1,000 certified organic operations.

According to data released by the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP), the number of domestic certified organic operations increased by more than 5 percent over the last year. Since the count began in 2002, the number of domestic organic operations has increased by over 250 percent. The certified operations list is available at

[apps.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://apps.ams.usda.gov/nop).



**Organic sales have also seen strong growth.** A recent Organic Trade Association survey shows organic sales jumped 11% to \$39 billion in 2014.

Organic fruits and vegetables continued to be the biggest-selling organic category in 2014 with \$13 billion in sales, up 12 percent from the previous year, and making up more than 36 percent of all organic food sales. Of all the produce now sold in the United States, 12

percent of it is organic, a market share that has more than doubled in the past ten years when organic produce sales accounted for only 5 percent of the fruit and vegetable market.

The organic dairy sector posted an almost 11 percent jump in sales in 2014 to \$5.46 billion, the biggest percentage increase for that category in six years.

**To read more about the survey and the results, go to: <http://ota.com/news/press-releases/18061>**



## *Mark Your Calendars*

### **Estate and Succession Planning for Farmland Owners**

Please attend two morning meetings to discuss estate planning options, opportunities, and tools for farmland owners and specialty crop growers taking on the task of estate or succession planning. Breakfast and meeting place will be provided by Dutch Mothers Restaurant located at 405 Front St. in Lynden.

**May 20<sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 10:00am, Session 1** will provide an overview of estate planning and will provide time for questions.

**May 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 10:00am, Session 2** will provide more in-depth estate planning considerations and will allow for increased time to ask specific questions and explore options for property owners

Please send RSVP to Chris Elder at [celder@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:celder@whatcomcounty.us) or call (360)676-6907



Estate Planners and Estate Lawyers will be on hand to explain approaches to planning, describe options and tools used by property owners transitioning property, and general things to consider with regards to property planning. This meeting is made available by a specialty crop grant from WSDA awarded to the Washington State Conservation Commission.

#### **Summer Vineyard Management July 18, 2015; 10:00am-1:00pm**

Careful attention is crucial to getting a good harvest of high quality wine grapes. Learn the principles of canopy and crop load management; how to manipulate shoots to maximize quality; when to cluster thin; the use of micro-nutrient sprays to enhance yield and quality. Netting machine demo! Bring hand pruners, gloves, and a brown bag lunch. **To register online, visit [VineyardCare.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://VineyardCare.BrownPaperTickets.com)**

#### **Whatcom County Estate Planning breakfast- May 20 & 27**

**Attention specialty crop growers! Join Whatcom County and the State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation for a primer on estate planning in Lynden. Hear from financial and estate planners - come get your questions answered and have some breakfast. 8am - 10am, Lynden WA - RSVP required: [celder@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:celder@whatcomcounty.us)**

#### **Mother Earth News Fair - June 6-7, Albany, Oregon**

The Mother Earth News Fair is a fun-filled, family-oriented, sustainable-lifestyle event featuring more than 150 practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops and products and services from hundreds of regional and national vendors.

Event information here: <http://www.motherearthnews.com/fair/oregon.aspx>

"OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE THE VITALITY OF FARMING, FARMERS, AND RANCHERS BY ENSURING THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN WASHINGTON STATE. WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE, THE OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND OTHERS AND BY ENLISTING PUBLIC SUPPORT. PROGRAMS WILL BE VOLUNTARY, RECOGNIZE LOCAL PRIORITIES, AND PROVIDE FOR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES."